

Law Student Opportunities

Public Rights Division

Charitable Trusts Section

Los Angeles



The Charitable Trusts Section of the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, has volunteer externship opportunities available for students in the Los Angeles office.

The Charitable Trusts Section regulates charities and the professional fundraisers who solicit on their behalf. The purpose of this oversight is to protect charitable assets for their intended use and ensure that the charitable donations contributed by Californians are not misapplied and squandered through fraud or other means. The attorneys and auditors of the Section investigate and bring legal actions against charities and fundraising professionals that misuse charitable assets or engage in fraudulent fundraising practices. They also participate in probate and trust proceedings to protect charitable assets and defend charitable bequests.

Student externs will have the opportunity to assist attorneys in various projects and assignments, which may include: interviewing complainants and witnesses; reviewing and assessing evidence; preparing legal research memoranda, pleadings, and motions on a broad range of legal issues; drafting discovery requests and responses; and drafting educational materials and presentations for the public. They may also attend depositions and court hearings.

Applicants for the Charitable Trusts Section internships must have excellent writing, research, and analytical skills. Extern hours are flexible and may be adjusted as appropriate. The Section will accept applications from second and third-year law students in good standing at accredited law schools, and law school graduates willing to volunteer their services. The Section will also accept applications from first-year law students for the summer.

How to Apply:

Students and law school graduates interested in applying should submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample to:

James Toma, Supervising Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Charitable Trusts Section
300 S. Spring St., Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Email: James.Toma@doj.ca.gov